

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 2 and Figure 3.2, and replace Figure 3.1 with the Substitute Figure 3.1, submitted herewith, as indicated in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Changes.

REMARKS

Claims

This application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/203,681 filed December 1, 1998. In that application, the Examiner restricted prosecution to Group I, claims 1-9, 23, 24, 39, and 43. With this Preliminary Amendment, the claims of Group II, i.e., claims 10-22 and 25-38, are presented for prosecution. Thus, with this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-9, 24, and 39-45 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10 and 25 are rewritten in independent form, new claims 45-48 are added, and the remaining claims are rewritten to correct dependencies and to even more clearly define the invention.

Specification

Applicants have amended the application to include a Sequence Listing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 - 1.825. Applicants have also corrected omissions of Sequence Identifiers in Figures 2, 3.1, and 3.2. No new matter is added by these amendments.

During prosecution of the parent application, inconsistencies were noticed in two areas of the application as filed: page 43 of the specification and Figure 3.1.

Amendments have been made to clarify these portions of the application, and the following remarks are presented in support of the amendments.

First, it was noticed that in the lower portion of Figure 3.1, the third codon from the end, "TGC" was shown as corresponding to "SER". This correspondence is not proper, as SER is properly coded for by TCG. A typographical error had apparently been made. Substitute Figure 3.1 corrects this inconsistency.

Second, in reviewing the description of plasmid pUT18 at page 43 of the specification, another inconsistency was noticed. The nucleotide sequence shown on lines 16-17 (SEQ ID No. 1) was incorrect because an "A" had been omitted from the 5' end of the sequence. The entire sequence was properly shown in the Provisional Application No. 60/067,308, upon which this application relies for priority, and which is incorporated by reference.

It was also noticed that a "24-bp double-stranded oligonucleotide" is referred to, which includes SEQ ID No. 1 and its complementary sequence. However, SEQ ID No. 1 is actually only 23 bases in length (counting the omitted "A"). Thus, the "24" has been changed to --23-- in the specification.

Thus, this Preliminary Amendment corrects those minor typographical errors.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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